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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,503	01/28/2004	Dan E. Fischer	7678.811	3475

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EXAMINER

SINGH, SATYENDRA K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1651

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/766,503	Applicant(s) FISCHER, DAN E.	
	Examiner Satyendra K. Singh	Art Unit 1651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-10, 14, and 15, drawn to **a delivery system for promoting bone growth** (as specifically recited in instant claim 1), classified in class 424, subclass various depending on the components used in the system.
- II. Claims 11-13, drawn to **a method for manufacturing a delivery system** for promoting bone growth (as specifically recited in instant claim 11), classified in class 435, subclass various (depending on the components).
- III. Claims 16-24, drawn to **a composition for promoting bone growth** (as specifically recited in instant claim 16), classified in class 424, subclass various (depending on the components used in the composition).
- IV. Claims 25-27, drawn to **a method for promoting bone growth** (as specifically recited in instant claim 25), classified in class 424, subclass various (depending on the components used).

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

1. Inventions of group I and II are distinct from each other. The invention of group I is drawn to a delivery system for promoting bone growth comprising a covering and a bone growth promoting material contained within the covering. Whereas, the invention of group II is a process for manufacturing a delivery system for promoting bone growth

that requires forming a hollow tube or pouch (in which the bone growth promoting material is inserted), which is not required by the invention of group I, as claimed.

2. Inventions of group I and group III are distinct from each other. The inventions are directed to two distinct and different compositions. The invention of group I is directed to a delivery system for promoting bone growth comprising a **covering** formed of a water absorbing **gelatinizable material** and a **bone growth promoting material**, whereas, the invention of group III is drawn to a composition for promoting bone growth comprising a bone growth promoting material in **granule or powder form** and a **thickener** dispersed among the bone growth promoting material (so that upon addition of water, the composition forms a **viscous gel or firm putty**), the limitations that are not required by the invention of group I.

3. Inventions of group II and group IV are distinct from each other. The inventions are distinct from each other because they are drawn to two different and distinct methods. The invention of group II is drawn to a method for manufacturing a delivery system for promoting bone growth, whereas, the invention of group IV is directed to a method of promoting bone growth using a **distinct composition** that requires polymerizable resin, syringe, and distinct method steps such as forming a barrier layer over the bone promoting material by curing the polymerizable resin, the limitations that are not required by the method of group II.

The inventions listed above are independent and distinct from one another as they have acquired a separate status in the art and require independent searches, particularly with regard to the literature searches. Clearly, a reference that would anticipate one of the above groups would not necessarily anticipate or even make obvious any of the others.

An undue burden would ensue from the examination of multiple methods, which have distinct steps and end points. Burden lies not only in the search of US Patents, but in the search for literature and foreign patents and examination of the claim language and specification for compliance with the statutes concerning new matter, distinctness, scope of enablement, and double patenting issues.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the literature search required for one Group is not required for the other group, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Art Unit: 1651


The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder. All claims directed a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.


In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder. Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satyendra K. Singh whose telephone number is 571-272-8790. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5MF (alternate Fridays OFF).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Satyendra K. Singh
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1651


SANDRA E. BAUCIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER